CAPSULE SUMMARY
CT-1350
Ireland Tenant Houses
2165 Wilson Road
Huntingtown, Calvert County, Maryland
c. 1900s-1950s
Private

Like many families along Wilson Road and throughout Calvert County the Ireland's had tenant farmers to help them with their "money crop." The intensive nature of tobacco farming required many farmers in Calvert County to take on extra workers to yield a successful crop. Tenant farming was a popular practice with many families along Wilson Road, namely the Ireland, Carpenter, and Jones. During the mid-twentieth century there were six dwellings on the Ireland property for tenants; there were four houses and two trailers. During the 2009 survey of the Ireland Farm four dwellings and one trailer were identified.

The first tenant house associated with the Ireland Family is located on the west side of Wilson Road, near the intersection with Plum Point Road. The house is set back from the roadside by approximately twenty feet. It is of modest form, two-story, two-by-one bays with a shed-roof entry porch on the east façade that is not quite full-length. The second tenant house associated with the Ireland Family is located on the west side of Wilson Road, near the intersection with Patience Place. It is of modest bungalow form, one-story, two-by-two bays with a front-gable roof and a full-length porch on the east façade. The third tenant house associated with the Ireland family is located on the east side of Wilson Road, south of the intersection with Patience Place. The tenant house is of modest bungalow form, one-story, two-by-two bays with a front-gable roof and a full-length porch on the west façade. Two additions off the north elevation were added to give the house an ell-shaped plan. The fourth tenant house is set back the farthest from Wilson Road, approximately fifty feet with the poorest visibility. The house is of modest form, two-story, two-by-one bay with an addition of similar proportions.

Tenant houses are modest dwellings and a significant and vanishing architectural form on the agricultural landscape of Calvert County and specifically along the Wilson Road corridor. The houses built by the Irelands along the Wilson Road provided seasonal housing for the people who helped tend their tobacco crops. These tenants also helped the family keep house and watch after their children. Although they came from different social and economic background, the relationship between a farmer and his tenant was crucial to the success and survival of the farm. Thus, tenant houses are significant not only for their simplistic architecture, but also for their contributions to the history of tobacco farming in southern Maryland. These houses in particular are important locally for their association with the Ireland family and their farm.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

| historic   | Ireland Tenant Houses (preferred)   |  |                              |               |                     |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| other  | Ireland Farm 2165 Wilson Road   |  |                              |               |                     |
| 2. Location  |   |  |                              |               |                     |
| street and number  | 2165 Wilson Ro  | oad  |                              |               | not for publication |
| city, town   | Huntingtown   |  |                              |               | vicinity            |
| county   | Calvert County  |  |                              |               |                     |
| 3. Owner of  | Property  | (give names and mailing  | addresses of all owners      | s)            |                     |
| name   | Jeffery & Jackson   | on Evans Ireland, and Thom   | as Herbert Ireland           |               |                     |
| street and number  | 2165 and 2169   | Wilson Road  |                              | telephone     |                     |
| city, town   | Huntingtown   |  | state MD                     | zip code      | 20639-9273          |
| city, town Hunting   | gtown tax map   | Additional Data  |                              | 012774, 05195 | 8, 012782           |
| city, town Hunting  5. Primary L  Contril Contril Deterr Deterr Record X Histori | cocation of buting Resource ir buting Resource ir mined Eligible for to mined Ineligible for ded by HABS/HAE                      | Additional Data  National Register District Local Historic District he National Register/Maryla r the National Register/Maryla   | nd Register<br>land Register | 012774, 05195 | 8, 012782           |
| city, town Hunting  5. Primary L  Contril Contril Deterr Deterr Record X Histori | cocation of buting Resource ir buting Resource ir mined Eligible for the mined Ineligible for ded by HABS/HAE ic Structure Report | F Additional Data  In National Register District In Local Historic District In He National Register/Maryla In the National Reg | nd Register<br>land Register | 012774, 05195 | 8, 012782           |

| 7. | Des | scri | pti | on |
|----|-----|------|-----|----|
|    |     |      | P   |    |

#### Condition

|   | _ excellent | X deteriorated |
|---|-------------|----------------|
|   | good        | ruins          |
| X | _ fair      | altered        |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

#### **SUMMARY**

To accommodate the seasonal workers on their tobacco farm, the Ireland family built four tenant houses along Wilson Road between the 1900s and 1950s. These modest homes are located on the west and east sides along Wilson Road between Plum Point Road to the north and Paul Hance Road to the south. The first two tenant houses are located close to the roadside while the second two tenant houses farther south are set back deeply into the woods. The houses are all vacant, vandalized and deteriorating.

#### DESCRIPTION

#### Tenant House One

The first tenant house associated with the Ireland Family is located on the west side of Wilson Road, near the intersection with Plum Point Road. The house is set back from the roadside by approximately twenty feet. It is of modest form, two-story, two-by-one bays with a shed-roof entry porch on the east façade that is not quite full-length. Other families have tenant houses of similar form, such as the Carpenter family's third tenant house along Plum Point Road and both Jones's tenant houses. The house was built sometime between the 1930s and 1950s by Herbert Ireland for tenants to help in his farm's tobacco fields. The house address is 2260 Wilson Road; it has been vacant since 2008. The tenant house has a gravel driveway and is surrounded by undeveloped woods. There are no foundation plantings; possibly, as the property is becoming overgrown, or perhaps due to the rental nature of tenant houses. A former dog kennel with a chain link fence is south of the tenant house. The gravel driveway forks south of the house and continues through the west portion of the Ireland Farm. Coowner Jackson Evans Ireland stated in a July 2008 interview that a barn used to be on the tenant house's property, south of the house. The barn, constructed in the mid-twentieth century by the Trueman Construction Company, was destroyed by arson in the 1990s.

The modest dwelling is a two-story, two-by-one bay tenant house with a shallowly pitched, standing seam metal, side-gable roof. The roof has no cornice but has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. There is an interior, brick stretcher chimney with a corbelled cap centrally located on the roof's ridge. The tenant house is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block pier foundation that is clad with a secondary sheathing of vinyl siding. The house is clad with wood clapboard and has symmetrical fenestration. There are single, six-over-six, double-hung sash wood windows and fixed, four-pane wood windows on the first story. The second story has single, three-over-three, double-hung sash wood widows. Windows are in poor condition with much of the glazing missing or broken. There is a one-story, one-and-a-half bay shed-roof porch on the east façade. The porch is not quite full-length across the façade. It is metal standing seam with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. The porch has wood framing possibly for screen or a railing. Plywood boards enclose most of the porch for attempted security and weatherproofing. Due to the plywood details on the main entry is not visible. There is an entry door on the west elevation that is wood panel with four fixed lights.

| 8. Signific   | cance  |  |  | Inventory No. CT-1350  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Period  | Areas of Significance  | Check and j  | ustify below   |  |
| 1600-1699<br>1700-1799<br>1800-1899<br>X 1900-1999<br>2000- | <ul> <li>X agriculture</li> <li>archeology</li> <li>architecture</li> <li>art</li> <li>commerce</li> <li>communications</li> <li>community planning</li> <li>conservation</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>economics</li> <li>education</li> <li>engineering</li> <li>entertainment/</li> <li>recreation</li> <li>ethnic heritage</li> <li>exploration/</li> <li>settlement</li> </ul> | health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military | performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science X social history transportation other: |
| Specific dates  |  |  | Architect/Builder  |  |
| Construction d  | ates 1900s-1940s   |  |  |  |
| Evaluation for:   |  |  |  |  |
| -   | _ National Register  | N  | Maryland Register  | Xnot evaluated   |

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

#### **SUMMARY**

Calvert County encompasses a narrow piece of land between the Chesapeake Bay to the east, and the Patuxent River to the west and south. It is surrounded by water on all sides except to the north where it adjoins Anne Arundel County. Calvert County is the smallest of the five counties of Southern Maryland and fourth oldest in Maryland. Although the County once stretched to the headwaters of the Patuxent River in modern-day Frederick County, it now measures only 218 square miles, making it the smallest of all Maryland counties. High cliffs characterize Calvert County's bay side shoreline. Conversely, the numerous creeks along the Patuxent River facilitated maritime traffic, servicing the County's richest agricultural lands.

Wilson Road runs parallel to the Chesapeake Bay and is bound to the north by Plum Point Road and to the south by Emmanuel Church Road. Huntingtown and Prince Frederick are the two largest towns in close proximity. The Ireland Farm and its tenant houses are located on a stretch of road between the Wilson Road and Plum Point Road intersection to the north and the Wilson Road and Emmanuel Church Road intersection to the south.

Ornate and modest twentieth century homesteads, tobacco barns, farm outbuildings, and tenant houses are linked by Wilson Road, which has been a prominent local thoroughfare since the mid-nineteenth century. Other significant landscape features along Wilson Road in the mid-nineteenth century include a steamship landing, a wharf and a windmill located at Plum Point.<sup>2</sup> Dunn Road is the only other road that dates to the mid-nineteenth century. Dunn Road branches off Wilson Road and originally extended all the way east to the Bay and as far west as the Freeland properties.<sup>3</sup> Today, Dunn Road ends at Suit's Chance, a farm in a County Agricultural Preservation District.<sup>4</sup> In historic maps dating to the mid-nineteenth century, many large farm properties stand along Wilson Road including Letchworth's Chance (CT-25), the Ireland Farm (CT-26), the Owen H. Jones

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Stein, Charles Francis. "A History of Calvert County." Schneidereith & Sons: Baltimore, 1977: 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 1865 Martenet Atlas of Maryland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Morris Suit Interview. Oral History Interview with Amy Bolasky Skinner for Wilson Road Historic Context Study, 10 March 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Morris Suit Interview.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1350

Calvert County Land Records.

city or town

Dames & Moore, "Historic Sites Context Study and National Register Evaluation." The Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1995

Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript. Oral History Interview with William A. Poe for Wilson Road Historic Context Study, 19 July 2008.

Stein, Charles Francis. "A History of Calvert County." Schneidereith & Sons: Baltimore, 1977.

Stinson, Merry MIHP Form CT-26 "Ireland Farm" 1978.

Sundermann, Anne. The Money Crop. Crownsville, Maryland: The Maryland Historical Trust, 2005.

| 10. Geographical Data         |                  |                   |      |  |  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------|--|--|
| Acreage of surveyed property  |                  | _34               |      |  |  |
| Acreage of historical setting | 190.94           | _                 |      |  |  |
| Quadrangle name               | Prince Frederick | Quadrangle scale: | 1=24 |  |  |

#### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Ireland Tenant Houses are located along Wilson Road. Two tenant houses are located on the east of Wilson Road, north of Patience Place and two tenant houses are located on the west of Wilson Road, south of Patience Place. The Ireland Tenant Houses are bound by Plum Point Road to the north and the Evelyn B. Carpenter Farm, Bellcar to the northeast (Tax Map 19, Parcel 21). The larger Ireland Farm (Tax Map 19, Parcel 4, 22 and 23) surrounds the tenant homes to the east and west. Modern subdivisions off of Paul Hance Road create the south property boundary.

# 11. Form Prepared by name/title Amy Bolasky Skinner, Architectural Historian organization The Ottery Group, Inc. date August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 street & number 3420 Morningwood Drive, Suite 100 telephone 301.562.1975

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

state

MD

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Olney

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Department of Planning 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600

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#### Tenant House Two

The second tenant house associated with the Ireland Family is located on the west side of Wilson Road, near the intersection with Patience Place. The house rests at the roadside approximately five feet from Wilson Road; the postal address is 2146 Wilson Road. It is of modest bungalow form, one-story, two-by-two bays with a front-gable roof and a full-length porch on the east façade. It is of similar form to the third tenant house associated with the Ireland property. Due to the tenant house's form and vernacular craftsman characteristics the house likely dates to the 1920s or 1930s. The house had a short gravel driveway and is surrounded by undeveloped woods. There are no foundation plantings; possibly, as the property is becoming overgrown, or perhaps due to the rental nature of tenant houses.

The modest dwelling is a one-story, two-by-two bay tenant house with a steeply pitched, front-gable roof clad with asbestos shingles. The roof has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. There is an interior, brick stretcher chimney with a corbelled cap centrally located on the roof's ridge. The central chimney cap is not perpendicular (90 degree angle) to the roof's ridgeline; it is at a 45 degree angle to the roofline. The tenant house is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block pier foundation. The foundation does not appear to be stabilized and has been "shored up" in various places with poured concrete and concrete block. The land slopes steeply to the west thus the house has a high foundation on the west elevation but is flush to the road on the east façade. The exterior is clad with weatherboard and has asymmetrical fenestration. Windows are single, six-over-six, double-hung sash wood with wood sills. The window on the east façade is boarded up with plywood. A one-story, two-bay shed-roof porch is on the east facade. The porch is not quite full-length across the façade; it is supported by wood posts and has a rotting wood foundation. There is a one-panel wood door with a storm door on the east façade and a secondary entry on the south elevation with a modern, four-light and wood panel door. The house is vacant and deteriorating, in need of stabilization and weatherproofing.

There is a trailer to the west of the tenant house at the rear of the tenant house property. It previously had been used as a tenant house but its original location is not clear. The trailer is not automobile accessible due to its location at the rear of the tenant house property. There is a non-contributing plywood storage shed with a front-gable roof located to the west of the tenant house, and east of the trailer. There is a second shed, that has a shed-roof to the west of the tenant house, and south of the trailer. The outbuildings are surrounded by extensive brush as well as two dog houses.

#### Tenant House Three

The third tenant house associated with the Ireland family is located on the east side of Wilson Road, south of the intersection with Patience Place. The house is accessible by a gravel driveway that has a steep pitch. The house is located in a gully below Wilson Road and below the main farmhouse parcel of the Ireland Farm. The tenant house is not visible from the main Ireland Farm and barely visible from Wilson Road. The house is surrounded by undeveloped woods and is rapidly becoming overgrown. There is a cleared, small, agricultural field to the west of the tenant house. The tenant house is of modest bungalow form, one-story, two-by-two bays

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with a front-gable roof and a full-length porch on the west façade. Two additions off the north elevation were added to give the house an ell-shaped plan. The original block of the tenant house is similar in form to the third tenant house associated with the Ireland property. Due to the tenant house's form and vernacular craftsman characteristics the house likely dates to the 1920s and 1930s.

The modest dwelling is a one-story, two-by-two bay tenant house with a steeply pitched, front-gable roof clad with asbestos shingles. The roof has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails on the secondary elevations. There is an interior, brick stretcher chimney with a corbelled cap centrally located on the roof's ridge. The chimney is at a 45 degree angle to the roofline. The tenant house is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block pier foundation. The exterior is clad with weatherboard and has asymmetrical fenestration. Windows are single, six-over-six, double-hung sash wood with wood sills. A one-story, two-bay shed-roof porch is on the west facade. The shed-roof is clad with asbestos shingles and has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. The porch is not quite full-length across the façade. It is supported by wood posts and has a low, plywood wall. The foundation is raised, concrete block. The house is vacant and deteriorating, in need of stabilization and weatherproofing.

There is a one-story, one-by-one bay addition with a side-gable roof on the north elevation. The roof is clad with asbestos shingles. It has an exterior end, brick stretcher chimney with a corbelled cap on the north end of the roof. The chimney is not interior due to a second addition on the north elevation. The addition is wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation. The exterior matches the main tenant house block with weatherboard siding. There is a double-hung sash window on the west façade that has broken glazing and is in poor condition.

There is a one-story, one-by-one bay addition with a side-gable roof on the north elevation of the first addition. The roof is clad with asbestos shingles, has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. The addition is wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation. The exterior matches the main tenant house block with weatherboard siding. Windows are single, two-over-two, double-hung sash wood.

#### Tenant House Three Outbuildings

The third tenant house has numerous outbuildings and more land than the other three Ireland Tenant Houses. One of the current owners, Jackson Evans Ireland recalls that in his lifetime the tenant house south of the main farm was not used for farm tenants but rather as a separate rental property. The renters did not work the land alongside the Ireland family rather they just rented the house and possibly had a different profession other than agriculture. There are two small agricultural fields south of the tenant house that the surveyors believe were associated with tenant house three. The fields were set back approximately thirty feet from Wilson Road at the base of the hill the main farmhouse parcel's various barns and outbuildings are located on. Both clearings are surrounded by an old barbed wire fence. The west field has a wood fence with gates to contain livestock.

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South of the third tenant house in the open east field is a gable-roof animal pen that is rectangular in plan. The pen has a steeply pitched, standing seam metal roof. It is one-story with a central aisle with six bays for animals on the west side and three bays for storage on the east side. The pen is supported by large, square posts and enclosed with metal wire.

Southeast of the animal pen in the open east field is a three-bay storage shed with a shed-roof. The roof is clad with corrugated metal sheathing and has exposed rafter tails. The shed has three separate bays; each roofline is of slightly lower pitch. The exterior is clad in vertical wood that is machine cut and affixed by a nail gun. The central bay has double, board and batten doors on the south façade.

There is a livestock shed to the southwest of the third tenant house. It is located in the enclosed west field and surrounded by brush. The shed is one-story and three bays. The livestock building has a shed roof clad with corrugated metal sheathing. The shed is of wood-frame construction and in poor condition. The east bays are clad in enclosed in wire and enclosed in corrugated metal. The central bay is open with a wood support. This area was likely for storage of equipment and food. The west bay has a wood cornice and exposed rafter tails. The opening is partially enclosed by a low wooden fence.

#### Tenant House Four

The fourth tenant house is set back the farthest from Wilson Road, approximately fifty feet and has the poorest visibility. The fourth tenant house is located south of the third tenant house and southwest of the main Ireland Farm. A large gully separates the tenant house on a slight hill from Wilson Road. It is set back deeply into the woods along the southernmost property line just north of Paul Hance Road. The house has no access road and is accessible only by foot. It is vacant and in an extremely poor, deteriorating condition. The house is of modest form, two-story, two-by-one bays with an addition of similar proportions. Jackson Evans Ireland stated that the tenant house was expanded in the 1940s for the Harrod Family, tenant farmers on the Ireland Farm. As the additions and materials are the same and the house is in such a poor condition it was not possible to ascertain which block was the original and which was the addition. Other families have tenant houses of similar form, such as the Carpenter family's third tenant house along Plum Point Road and both of the Jones family's tenant houses.

The modest dwelling is a two-story, two-by-one bay tenant house with a shallowly pitched, standing seam metal, side-gable roof. The roof has overhanging eaves, and exposed rafter tails. There is an interior, brick stretcher chimney centrally located on the roof's ridge. The chimney is in deteriorating condition and has a missing cap. This chimney was originally an exterior chimney for the original house block that was incorporated into the interior when the addition was added. The tenant house is of wood-frame construction with a wood clad foundation. Due to the deterioration and overgrown areas the foundation material has poor visibility. The house was clad with wood weatherboard but the weatherboarding is missing on most of the elevations, exposing the tenant house's framing and interior lath and plaster walls. The tenant house has asymmetrical fenestration. All of the window openings are visible however all of the glazing is missing,

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therefore window type is unclear. There is an opening for doors on the west façade and east elevation. An unglazed, wood panel door is on the ground near the west façade opening and was likely the front door. There is evidence of what was an almost full-length shed-roof porch on the west façade. It is likely the original porch was similar to the porch on the Ireland's tenant house one; clad with a metal standing seam roof, overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails with wood post supports. As the porch has collapsed it is unclear which construction period the porch can be attributed too. The house is vacant and rapidly deteriorating, in need of stabilization and weatherproofing.

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Farm (CT-476), the Baden-Anderson Farm (CT-27), and a modest side-parlor house known as the Plank House (CT-257).<sup>5</sup>

The Wilson Road area can be found on maps dating to the seventeenth century. Augustine Hermann placed Plum Point on his map in 1675, and depicted a number of plantations along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River. Later, in the mid-nineteenth century, the Martenet map shows Plum Point in excellent detail. In 1892, the United States Geological Survey depicts Plum Point and Wilson Road, and subsequent modifications to this map by the USGS reveals various changes on the landscape, including the addition to new structures and the alteration of roadways, including Plum Point Road. For example the 1910 USGS Topographic Map shows three improved roads extending east from Wilson Road toward the Bay.<sup>6</sup> The northernmost road is Patience Place. The Ireland family farmstead (CT-26) is located along this road. Although the property and buildings were visible in the mid-nineteenth century, Patience Place does not appear mapped until about the early-twentieth century.<sup>7</sup> The next road to the south is Angelica Drive. The Owen H. Jones family farm (CT-476) is located at the end of this road. The Owen H. Jones farm can trace its roots to the Hance and Wilson families back to the mid-nineteenth century. The southernmost road is Camp Kaufmann Road. The Agnes Buckler House (CT-478), visible on the 1910 topographic map, is located at the end of Camp Kaufmann Road on a dirt trace.

The most significant change to the area occurs in the mid-twentieth century. The 1932 US Geological Survey Topographical Map shows subdivisions and new roads along Wilson Road as Calvert County connects with surrounding counties. Letchworth's Chance (CT-25) is subdivided and the Neeld Estates appears with many private properties clustered along the Bay's shoreline. Additionally, on this map Dunn Road no longer connects to Stinnett Road. Since the 1930s Dunn Road has only been accessible from Wilson Road. A new road, branches east off Wilson Road, south of Patience Place. Paul Hance Road is the location of the original Paul Hance House (CT-474) as well as the former H. Oscar Bowen House (CT-473). Although they no are longer standing, both properties were visible in the mid-nineteenth century.

The last major alteration to the roads connecting to Wilson Road was documented in the 1939 Topographic Map surveyed by the US Department of Agriculture and also appears on the current Topographic Map for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> A.D. Bache, United States Coast Survey, Western Shore of Chesapeake Bay, 1847. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1900. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1900. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

<sup>8</sup> Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1932. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum.

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Wilson Road.<sup>9</sup> The map shows the original northern curvature of Plum Point Road; however, it also demonstrates the changed and improved Plum Point Road running due east towards the Bay and the wharf ruins. The modern road takes this path.

The history of the Wilson Road area can be defined by two overarching themes: Agriculture and Transportation. The movement of goods, such as tobacco, was facilitated by water transportation that linked individual plantations to shipping centers in the County and around the Chesapeake Bay. Later, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the development of inland road networks became essential to the commercial success of Calvert's plantations.

Water transportation had always been the most effective means for shipping and receiving goods throughout Calvert County. Until the twentieth century roads in Calvert County were rural and unimproved; steamships took goods to places like Baltimore to be sold or shipped overseas. "The creation of regular commercial and passenger service on the Bay helped boost the local economy. The most successful of the early attempts to create a regular shipping line in Calvert County was established by Captain George Weems in 1817. The Weems Steamship Line was the principal carrier between the Port of Baltimore and southern Maryland." <sup>10</sup>

In the Wilson Road vicinity there was a wharf at Plum Point. The first wharf at Plum Point was located 250 to 300 feet north of the present Plum Point Road. It was relocated further south in 1893 and rebuilt three quarters of a mile long, "L-shaped" and one of the longest on the Chesapeake Bay. The location of the wharf was one catalyst for development along Wilson Road. Areas around the wharf became gathering places where locals could watch the ships load and use the private beaches. Some families allowed the public to park on their land while others created private beach cottages for rent. The Wilson Store (later the Dixon Store) was a combined store and post office often frequented by locals and visitors alike. Plum Point was a bustling area along Wilson Road until August of 1933 when a hurricane devastated the farms and the crop along Wilson Road. The hurricane demolished the warehouse as well as most of the pier.

Wilson Road's association with agriculture can be seen in the landscape and found in the local relationships of residents. One result of the reliance on tobacco is seen in the area of Calvert County along the Bay, notably a lack of central towns, as well as "the significant role that elite planters had in the political and social life in the community, and the complex interrelationships between the various classes and races living together within the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Topographic Atlas of Maryland Counties of Calvert Charles and St. Mary's, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1939. Available at the Calvert Marine Museum and Topographic Map of Prince Frederick, Maryland Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey, 1993. Available through Terrain Navigator.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Dames & Moore, "Historic Sites Context Study and National Register Evaluation." The Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1995:4 and Stein 1977:169.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Eshelman & Associates, "Calvert County Steamboat Wharves and Landings: Architectural Level Survey and Inventory." The Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1996 and Carpenter, Evelyn B. "A History of Carpenter's Beach." Calvert County Marine Museum: Unpublished manuscript, 1984.

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community."<sup>12</sup> Wilson Road, an example of the broader characterization of Calvert County, was a prime location for tobacco farming, a "combination of favorable soil and topography, good river transportation and fortunate economic considerations contributed to Calvert County's being overwhelmingly agricultural from its beginning, with tobacco the principal cash crop."<sup>13</sup> Families settled along Wilson Road to live and grow tobacco. Wilson Road has no town center nearby with the closest town being Huntingtown, 9 miles to the northwest, or Prince Frederick 4.5 miles to the southwest. Being in such close proximity, all the families along Wilson Road socialized with, went to school with, worshipped with and often married one another. Many of the current residents along Wilson Road have surnames such as Bassford (later Carpenter), Wilson, Hance, Jones, Ireland. The expansive layout of family farms along the landscape of Wilson Road highlights the way Calvert County was settled as a result of tobacco farming. Tobacco would remain the chief crop and one of the defining features of the County until well into the late twentieth century.

After World War II with improvements to transportation a "dramatic change to the character and landscape of Calvert County" occurred. The area is now linked to the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area and real estate prices have increased while demands for tobacco have decreased. With properties along Wilson Road no longer focused on tobacco farming tenants have moved away and dwellings are vacant. Many family homesteads have been subdivided to provide land and houses for current and future generations.

Despite modern changes to Calvert County, the agricultural landscape along Wilson Road is not so altered that one cannot discern the historic character. The Wilson Road area can be characterized as a rural farming community whose origins are firmly rooted in the production of tobacco. From its first settlements at places like Angelica in the 1600s, farming was the primary economic focus that helped establish the community along Wilson Road. In many ways, the community remains largely unaltered, with descendants of nineteenth century settlers still living in the area today, namely the Degges at Letchworth's Chance (CT-25), the Carpenter's at Bellcar (CT-472), the Ireland farm (CT-26), the Hance's at Paul Hance Farm (CT-474), the Hance/Jones' at Owen H. Jones Farm (CT-476), and the Buckler's at Agnes H. Buckler Farm (CT-478 and S. Chester Buckler Farm CT-492). These families continue to leave their legacy along the landscape through the buildings, structures, and vistas that have historically characterized Calvert County.

The intensive nature of tobacco farming required many farmers in Calvert County to take on extra workers to produce a successful crop. As the cycle of tobacco is over a year from planting to prizing and selling, cheap labor was essential to make the work profitable. Prior to the Civil War, farmers relied on slave labor to plant, tend, pick, strip, and dry the tobacco; however, following emancipation at the end of the war, tenant farming and other forms of sharecropping replaced the system of slavery as the primary means by which the tobacco economy could continue.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Kulikoff, Allan, "Tobacco and Slaves." University of North Carolina: Chapel Hill, 1986 and Dames & Moore 1995: 5.

<sup>13</sup> Dames & Moore 1995: 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Dames & Moore 1995: 17.

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Tenant farming and sharecropping were similar forms of economy wherein a landless farmer was provided land on which to produce a crop, primarily tobacco along Wilson Road. Because of the relative value of tobacco per acre compared to other crops, it was favored by small farmers who owned less than one hundred acres. Also, the relatively small size of the farms provided plenty of work for tenant farmers who could move from one farm to the other. To earn extra income tenants helped farm owners hang and strip tobacco in the winter and often raised their own crops as well. Since some aspects of tobacco cultivation were labor intensive yet relatively low skill, tenant farmers with larger families could get help from their children to increase profitability. The system, much like sharecropping, provided little upward economic or social mobility; as a result, very few tenant farmers earned enough money to buy a farm of their own and improve their situation.

Tenant farming and sharecropping were essential to tobacco cultivation in the area; however, the impact these forms of labor had on farmers was often negative. Tenant farming and sharecropping were hard ways of life, with long hours, little income, and little promise of advancement. Many farmers also lacked a complete education as they often dropped out or missed a lot of school to work in the fields and earn extra income for their families. Some farmers believed that tenant "farming was akin to slavery" because it allowed landlords to maintain a low cost workforce when slavery was no longer legal.<sup>20</sup> The economic constraints of tenant farming and the racism and segregation many tenant farmers faced in the first half of the twentieth century made it difficult for tenant farmers to improve their situation.<sup>21</sup> In many cases, tenant farmers drifted from farm to farm and took on side jobs in the off season including construction, oyster fishing, raising other crops, grave digging, and driving tobacco to Baltimore.<sup>22</sup>

A good relationship was an interdependent one where the farm owner was dependent on the tenant for their labor and the tenant was reliant on the owner for housing, goods and services in the time before the crop was sold.<sup>23</sup> If a tenant was in a good situation on a certain farm, they were motivated to be good tenants and hard workers; likewise, if an owner wanted to keep a good tenant, he needed to provide the best resources and equipment.<sup>24</sup> While whites and African-Americans did not enjoy the same privileges and opportunities, on the farm there was a sense of a common goal and a mutual interest in a successful crop yield. Many farm owners

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Prola, Rosemary. Ponds Wood Road Historic Context, 2007: 2-3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Sundermann, Anne. *The Money Crop*. Crownsville, Maryland: The Maryland Historical Trust, 2005: 43.

<sup>18</sup> Dames & Moore, 1995: 4-12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Sundermann, Anne M. The Money Crop 2005: 41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Sundermann, Anne M. The Money Crop 2005: 43.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Sundermann, Anne M. The Money Crop 2005: 88-89.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Poe, William A. Images of America: <u>African Americans of Calvert County.</u> Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2008: 114 and 157.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript. Oral History Interview with William A. Poe for Wilson Road Historic Context Study, 19 July 2008.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

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grew up with the children of their tenant farmers and were raised in part by tenant farmer's wives. The farm owners and tenant farmers worked side-by-side in the tobacco fields and developed a strong sense of kinship and dependency. Former tobacco farmer Jackson Evans Ireland felt that tenant farming, "was kind of paternalistic, but you had an obligation to take care of your tenants." Farm owners helped their tenants secure material goods and deal with bureaucracy. As Ireland explained, "if a tenant had a problem... a lot of the older tenants were illiterate... you found things for them to do so they could make some money..." 28

Although the tenant houses were small and often did not having running water or even electricity, they allowed the tenant farmers to have their own home at no additional cost.<sup>29</sup> Tenant houses were often located on the margins of property boundaries. They were typically one or two stories with a chimney and an outhouse. Tenant houses were "plain in appearance" and usually had "no structural or decorative features outside such as a porch, window shutters or door or window trim."<sup>30</sup> The interior often had irregular boards and walls that had not been whitewashed.<sup>31</sup> Farm owners would add onto the houses as it became necessary, particularly to accommodate a good tenant's growing family.<sup>32</sup> In later years mobile homes replaced the houses as they provided modern amenities. Tenants also had the opportunity to farm the land around their house in their free time to earn extra cash for necessities or future land ownership.<sup>33</sup>

A number of farmers along Wilson Road, including the Carpenters and Andersons, had tenant houses built for specific families who were mainstays on the farm. The connection between the farm owner, his tenant and their families played an important role in the continued success of tobacco farming in Calvert County through the late-twentieth century. These relations along Wilson Road are clear from the histories of each farm and the families who worked them.

The Ireland Family has a long history in Calvert County and along Wilson Road. William Ireland settled in Maryland in 1655; in 1671, Joseph Ireland (probably William's son) patented a tract called Ireland's Hope, situated near Hunting Creek.<sup>34</sup> The Irelands were political leaders in Calvert County, as well as extensive landholders. Descendants of William Ireland have settled all across Calvert County. One Ireland property is a farmstead located along Wilson Road in Huntingtown. Originally owned by the Bassfords, the Herbert Ireland family came into it by marriage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Sundermann, Anne M. The Money Crop 2005: 85-86.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Sundermann, Anne M. The Money Crop 2005: 41-42.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> McDaniel, George W. Hearth and Home: Preserving a People's Culture. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1982: 7-8.

<sup>31</sup> McDaniel, George W. Hearth and Home 1982: 8.

<sup>32</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>33</sup> Sundermann, Anne M. The Money Crop 2005: 45.

<sup>34</sup> Stein 1977: 276.

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The original Ireland homestead along Wilson Road was further south than the current farm. In 1851, John Henry and Sarah Hance Bassford purchased farmland from Asa Needham. When they purchased the property it had a "house [that] was a one-and-a-half story colonial type with dormers" that John Henry Bassford remodeled. The house is said to have faced the Bay originally but the Bassfords turned it to face north, raised it two stories and added the west wing. Few alterations occurred to the main house over the years and the massing remains strikingly similar to the Bassfords remodeling.

John Bassford was an attorney that served as a county commissioner in the 1860s. He also held the position of Clerk of the Orphans Court as well as the Clerk of the Circuit Court after the courthouse fire. He rerecorded his property's deed, which is how his heirs knew the origins of the property.<sup>37</sup> Upon his death in 1900, the farm was divided among his three heirs. Daughters Ella and Annie each received one-quarter of the land on the northern parcel, while his son, Thomas Jackson, known as Jackson, received one-half of the land (the southern parcel). After Annie's death in 1917 her sister Ella (unmarried) inherited her one-quarter parcel giving her ownership to the entire northern parcel.<sup>38</sup>

(Thomas) Jackson Bassford married a local woman named Ida Isabel Cranford, whose family still lives on Plum Point Road. <sup>39</sup> Jackson and Ida had three daughters, Amelia, Jessie, and Ida. Ida Bassford married Herbert Ireland, whose family lived further south on Wilson Road near the present day Camp Kaufman Road. <sup>40</sup> After buying out her sisters shares Ida and Herbert Ireland settled on the farm (southern parcel); their descendants' own the Ireland Farm today. Ida and Herbert had two sons, Jackson Wilson Ireland and Thomas Herbert Ireland. Jackson Wilson Ireland purchased the northern parcel from his "Aunt" (great-great Aunt) Ella in the 1940s. His son's Jeffery and Jackson Evans Ireland inherited the property upon his death in the 1980s and continue to work the land today. Their uncle, and Jackson Wilson Ireland's brother, Thomas Herbert Ireland inherited the southern parcel when his father Herbert Ireland passed away. The parcel on which the house was located was transferred from Thomas Herbert's possession on the southern parcel to his nephews (Jeffery and Jackson Evans Ireland) by Ida Ireland (Jeffery and Jackson Evans Ireland's grandmother) in 1980 after Herbert's death. <sup>41</sup>

The Irelands own extensive property along Wilson Road; the farm is located off of Patience Place. The Ireland Farm totals 194 acres spread over three parcels. The property is bound to the north by the Carpenter Farm,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> John Henry and Sarah Hance Bassford are great-great grandparents of the owners of the northern parcel, brothers Jeffery and Jackson Evans Ireland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Stinson, Merry MIHP Form CT-26 "Ireland Farm" 1978.

<sup>37</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>38</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>39</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>40</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Calvert County Land Records, Deed ABE 512: 417 and Deed 271: 794.

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Bellcar, as well as some subdivided private homes, to the east by the Chesapeake Bay, and to the south by the former Hance farm that has been subdivided. Although the property has been "divided" in ownership since the 1900s the land remains one contiguous piece of property with the main house, a smaller family dwelling, tenant's houses, tobacco barns, outbuildings, and beach cabins. There are four tenant houses, one trailer, a small dwelling, and farmhouse, six beach cabins, five barns and six sheds, and a few miscellaneous buildings, for a total of 29 buildings associated with the property.

Like many families along Wilson Road and throughout Calvert County the Irelands had tenant farmers to help them with their "money crop." During the mid-twentieth century there were six dwellings on the Ireland property for tenants; there were four houses and two trailers. During the 2009 survey of the Ireland Farm four dwellings and one trailer were identified. Many of the tenant families remained with the Irelands for significant periods of time, fully engaging in the local community, even helping out other farmers. One notable example in Jackson Evans Ireland's memory is the African-American Harrod. A multi-generational family of tenant farmers, some of the Harrod children came back to the Ireland farm to help with the tobacco crop the year Jackson Evans Ireland's father, Jackson Wilson Ireland passed away. Jackson Evans Ireland felt that tenant farming, "was kind of paternalistic, but you had an obligation to take care of your tenants." Jackson Evans Ireland also recalls other tenants who farmed the property over the years including; Calvin and Mary Gorman who went on to buy their own farm on Plum Point Road, Marian and Roosevelt with either the surname Holland or Mackall<sup>43</sup>, Thomas Hurley and his family who moved around the neighborhood, and Ike Sollers who was from 'all over."

The nature of tobacco farming led to many large farms but few towns; therefore the community along Wilson Road was tight knit. According to Jackson Evans Ireland, "relations with adjoining property owners were pretty good because we were all related." The most common surnames along Wilson Road in the twentieth century were Carpenter, Hance, Bowen, Jones, and Wilson. Jackson Evans Ireland understood the close nature of the community first hand. "Evan Carpenter was raised by my great-grandfather (Thomas Jackson Bassford), Evan was his nephew. [Thomas Jackson Bassford] and Oscar Carpenter were half brothers." Since the majority of the large farm holders were related a unique and tight knit sense of community was formed along Wilson Road in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Despite the social, economic, and racial differences between farmer owners and tenant farmers, a sense of community formed around the farms, as workers and owners relied on one another for a successful tobacco crop yield and therefore income and stability. The connection between the farm owner, his tenant and their families

42 Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript. Jackson Evans stated that "At that time culture was such that white folks didn't use black folks last name." So he was unsure which was their correct surname.

<sup>44</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Jackson Evans Ireland Transcript.

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Number 8 Page 8

played an important role in the continued success of tobacco farming in Calvert County through the late twentieth century. These relations along Wilson Road are clear from the histories of each farm and the tenants who worked them.

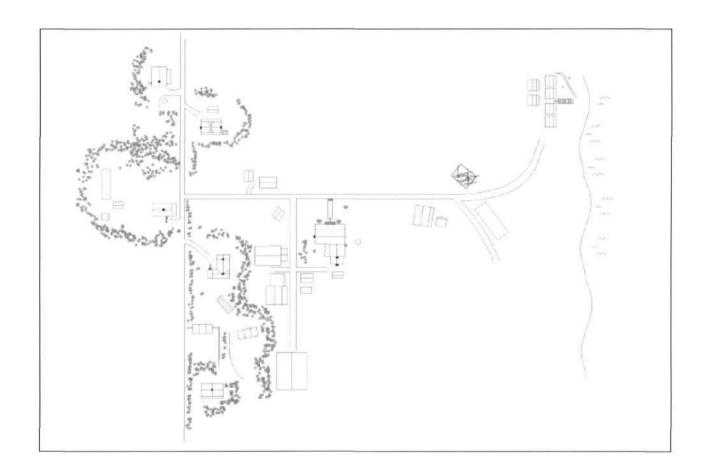
#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tenant houses are modest dwellings and a significant and vanishing architectural form on the agricultural landscape of Calvert County and specifically along the Wilson Road corridor. The houses built by the Irelands along the old Plum Point Road provided seasonal housing for the people who helped tend their tobacco crops. These tenants also helped the family keep house and watch after their children. Although they came from different social and economic background, the relationship between a farmer and his tenant was crucial to the success and survival of the farm. Thus, tenant houses are significant not only for their simplistic architecture, but also for their contributions to the history of tobacco farming in southern Maryland. These houses in particular are important locally for their association with the Ireland family and their farm.

## Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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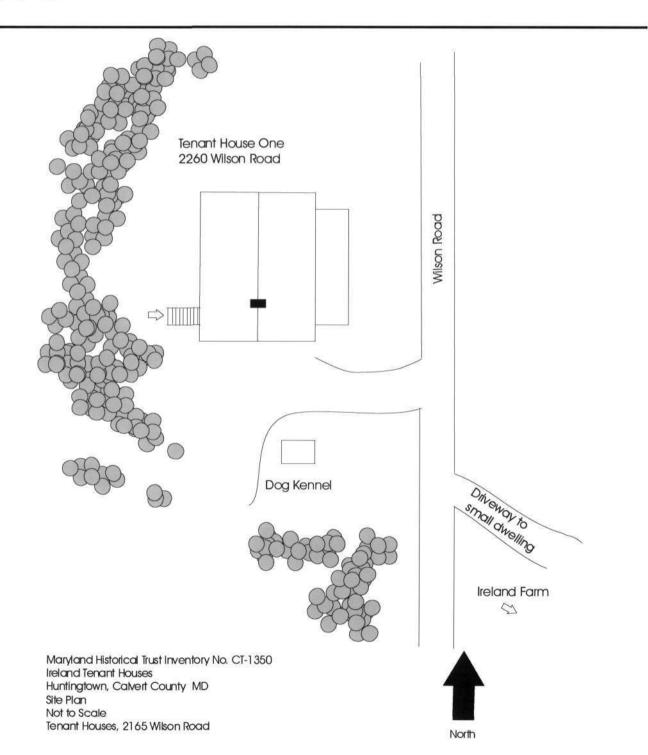


Maryland Historical Trust Inventory No. CT-26 and CT-1350 Ireland Farm Context Huntingtown, Calvert County MD Site Plan Not to Scale Farm, 2165, Wilson Road

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Name Ireland Tenant Houses Continuation Sheet

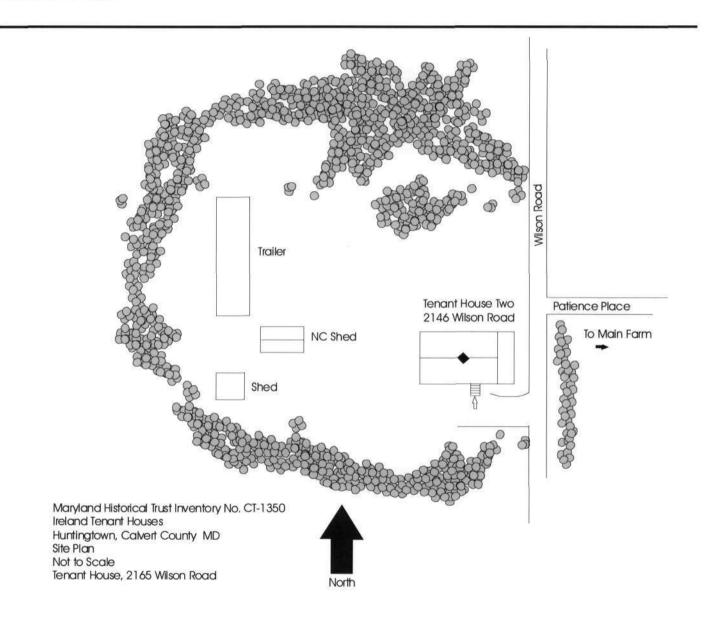
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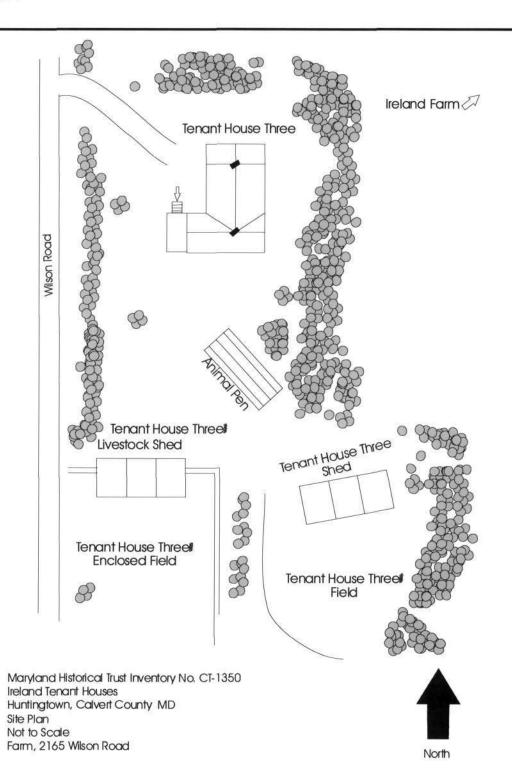
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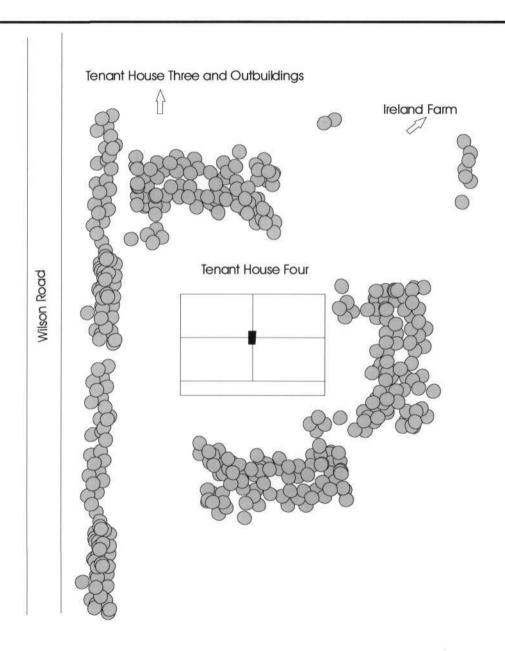
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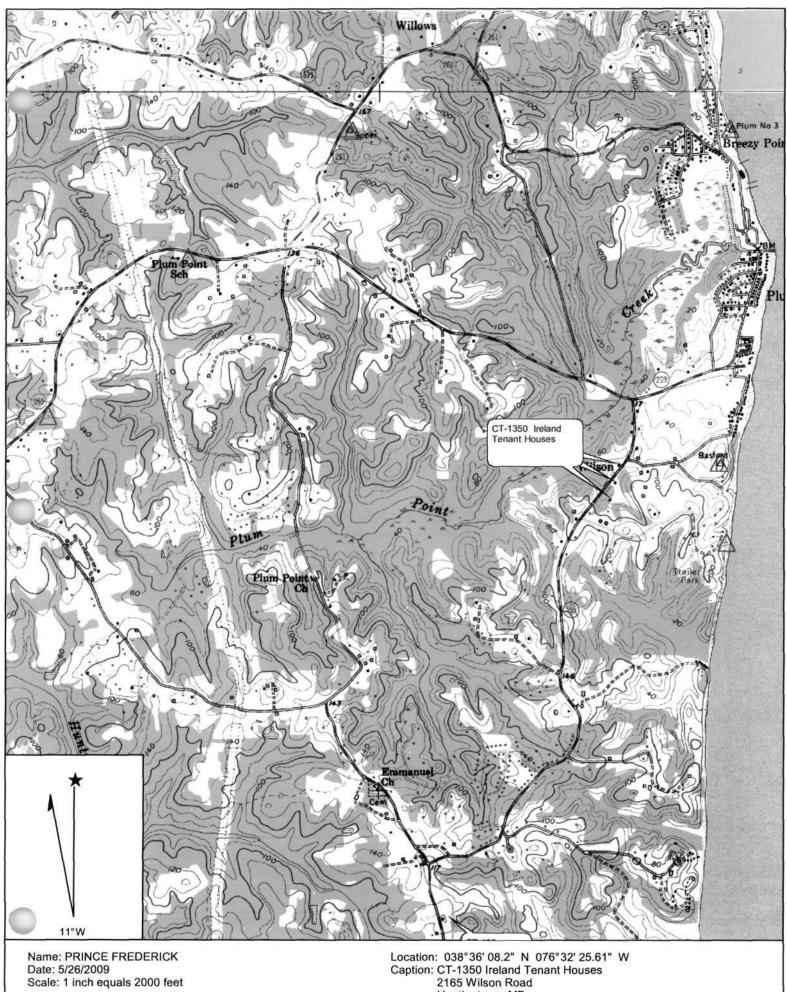
Name Ireland Tenant Houses Continuation Sheet

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Maryland Historical Trust Inventory No. CT-1350 Ireland Tenant Houses Huntingtown, Calvert County MD Site Plan Not to Scale Farm, 2165 Wilson Road





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